

The embodiments of the invention in which an exclusive property or privilege is claimed are defined as follows:

1. A method for collecting product data to provide uniform searching, viewing and purchasing of products over a network, comprising:

retrieving new product data from a plurality of providers;

determining that a first portion of said new product data may be entered with stored product data;

integrating said first portion with said stored product data;

determining that a second portion of said new product data may not be entered with said stored product data; and

adding said second portion to a buffer.

2. The method according to Claim 1, wherein said providers comprise merchants.

3. The method of Claim 2, wherein determining that said first portion may be entered with said stored product data comprises matching product producer names and product producer product identifiers from said first portion to product producer names and product producer product identifiers from said stored product data.

4. The method according to Claim 2, wherein determining that said first portion may be entered with said stored product data comprises matching product SKUs from said first portion to product SKUs in said stored product data.

5. The method according to Claim 1, wherein said providers comprise canonical suppliers.

6. The method according to Claim 1, wherein said providers comprise merchants and canonical suppliers.

7. The method of Claim 1, further comprising indexing said stored product data and forwarding said indexed stored product data to at least one searchable database.

8. The method of Claim 7, wherein said at least one searchable database has at least one mirrored database.

9. The method of Claim 7, wherein said indexed stored product data comprises index meta-data and indexed data.

10. The method of Claim 1, wherein said at least one searchable database is load balanced with at least one mirrored database.

11. The method of Claim 1, further comprising updating at least one priced products database with said stored product data.

12. The method of Claim 1 further comprising examining said buffer and determining that at least one entry in said buffer contains product data which may be entered with said stored product data.

13. The method of Claim 12, further comprising categorizing said at least one entry.